



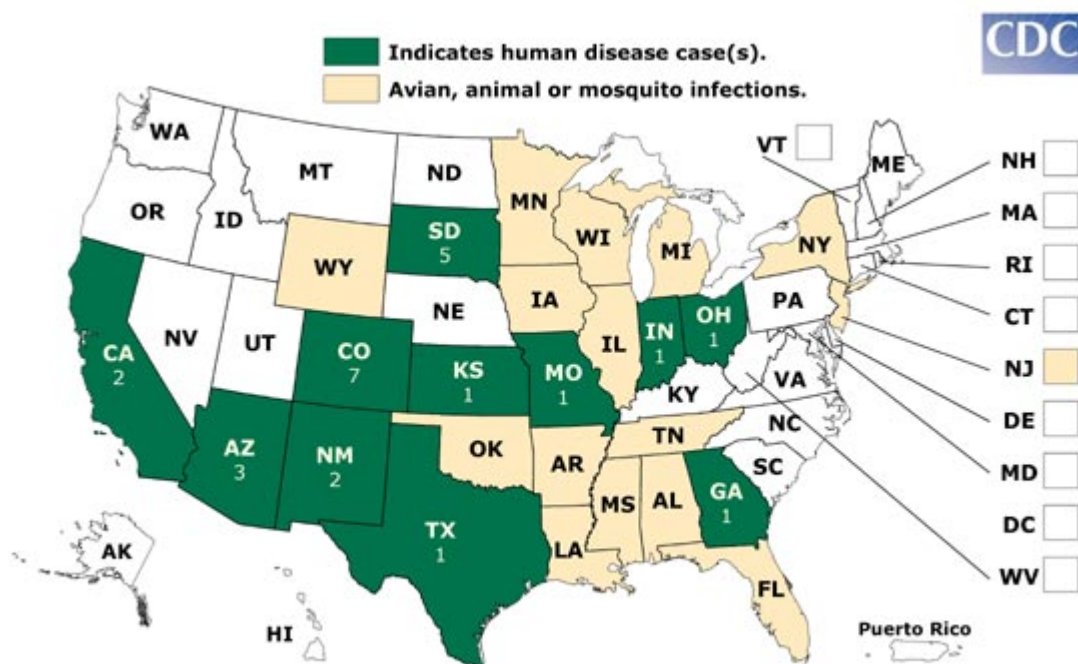
West Nile Virus Newsletter

For the third year, the Department of Health (DOH) is using this electronic newsletter as a regular communication tool to help keep its partners informed about West Nile virus (WNV). The newsletter will be provided every two weeks throughout the warmer peaks of the mosquito season and less frequently during the colder, non-peak mosquito periods.

National surveillance

Provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

2005 West Nile Virus Activity in the United States (Reported to CDC as of July 12, 2005)



In 2005, a total of 11 states have published 25 human cases of West Nile, compared with 108 cases from 10 states at this time in 2004.

Human Clinical and Demographic Data for the US: In 2005, among 24 cases with available clinical and demographic data, the median age was 45 years (range: 17 – 80 years), and 19 (79 percent) were in males. Of these 24 cases, 8 (33 percent) were neuroinvasive compared with 60 of 106 (57 percent) at this time in 2004. In 2005 there has been a total of one published WNV-related fatality. The age of the decedent was 70 years.

Additional information about national WNV activity is available from CDC at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/index.htm>. Maps detailing county-level human, mosquito, veterinary, avian and sentinel data are published each week on the collaborative USGS/CDC West Nile virus website: <http://westnilemaps.usgs.gov>.

Follow-up test on probable West Nile illness case inconclusive; retest likely

Testing was inconclusive on a blood sample from a Spokane woman listed as a "probable" West Nile illness case. Initial tests at a local lab in the Spokane area indicated that the woman's illness may be caused by West Nile virus. If it is eventually confirmed, it would be the first illness due to West Nile virus acquired within the state of Washington.

The Spokane Regional Health District will ask the patient for another blood sample to conduct a repeat test at the Department of Health Public Health Laboratories in Shoreline. An inconclusive result could indicate that the blood sample was collected too soon after the onset of symptoms, before antibodies had developed. If the retest at the Public Health Laboratories indicates a positive result, a sample would be sent to the Fort Collins, Colorado lab operated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Only a positive test result from CDC will confirm the illness as due to West Nile virus.

Environmental monitoring for the disease in mosquitoes, horses and dead birds continues. DOH's Zoonotic Disease program is tracking the results, including 43 mosquito pools, a dozen horses and 99 dead birds tested so far this year; all of these tests have been negative for West Nile virus.

The State Department of Health and the Spokane Regional Health District are encouraging people to protect themselves and their families from mosquitoes by wearing mosquito repellent, wearing long sleeves at dawn and dusk and by reducing mosquito habitat.

"Although West Nile virus has not yet been confirmed in our area, we need to be vigilant in protecting ourselves and our families from mosquito bites," explained Dr. Kim Marie Thorburn, health officer for the Spokane Regional Health District. "I strongly urge residents to take personal responsibility for reducing mosquito habitat around their homes and adopting simple precautions to minimize the potential for mosquito bites."

View the July 8th news release from the Spokane Regional Health District at <http://www.srhd.org/information/news/newsdisplay.asp?id=170> and the Washington State Department of Health at http://www.doh.wa.gov/Publicat/2005_news/05-087htm.htm.

Innovative, educational WNV public service announcements

The Washington State Department of Health has developed radio public service announcements (PSAs) focusing on West Nile virus awareness and prevention. The two 60-second radio spots are in English and Spanish. A more creative approach was purposely chosen in producing these PSAs than some people may expect from a government agency. While the campaign is intended to be attention-grabbing and innovative, the goal is to educate the public and give the listener clear direction on how to avoid contracting West Nile virus.



The PSAs were delivered to radio stations throughout the state on June 30, 2005. With mosquito season well underway, radio stations have been asked to air these PSAs through mid-October. The PSAs have been posted to DOH's West Nile virus Web page and are available for download at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/ts/Zoo/WNV/psa.html>.

Research

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Emerging Infectious Diseases, Volume 11, Number 7 – July Issue

West Nile Virus–associated Flaccid Paralysis. James J. Sejvar et al.
<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/eid/vol11no07/04-0991.htm>

Abstract: The causes and frequency of acute paralysis and respiratory failure with West Nile virus (WNV) infection are incompletely understood. During the summer and fall of 2003, we conducted a prospective, population-based study among residents of a 3-county area in Colorado, United States, with developing WNV-associated paralysis. Thirty-two patients with developing paralysis and acute WNV infection were identified. Causes included a poliomyelitislike syndrome in 27 (84%) patients and a Guillain-Barré-like syndrome in 4 (13%); 1 had brachial plexus involvement alone. The incidence of poliomyelitislike syndrome was 3.7/100,000. Twelve patients (38%), including 1 with Guillain-Barré-like syndrome, had acute respiratory failure that required endotracheal intubation. At 4 months, 3 patients with respiratory failure died, 2 remained intubated, 25 showed various degrees of improvement, and 2 were lost to followup. A poliomyelitislike syndrome likely involving spinal anterior horn cells is the most common mechanism of WNV-associated paralysis and is associated with significant short- and long-term illness and death.

Proposed mosquito control district doesn't fly in Spokane County

On June 21st the Spokane County commissioners decided not to proceed in allowing voters to decide on whether to form a county wide mosquito control district. Commissioners heard from six citizens who spoke out against forming the district and one person who supported it – Health Officer Dr. Kim Thorburn. A second person submitted a letter backing the formation of the mosquito control district.

The commissioners said they believe state law (Chapter 17.28 Revised Code of Washington) gives too much authority to mosquito control districts and potentially allows them to infringe on the rights of property owners. Citizens who spoke out against the proposed district raised

environmental, tax, and property rights concerns. The commissioners suggested finding other ways to control mosquitoes and said they would lobby the State Legislature to change what one commissioner called a "terribly bad" law.

Dr. Thorburn and the Board of Health had brought the proposal to form a mosquito control district forward as a way to reduce mosquito populations that could potentially transmit West Nile virus. The mosquito control district would have covered all of Spokane County, including the incorporated cities, except for the City of Liberty Lake, which submitted a letter requesting it be excluded. If the commissioners had put the proposed district on the ballot and had voters approved it, citizens would have been asked to approve a first-year levy of 2 cents per \$1,000 valuation, or \$3 a year on a \$150,000 home. That would have raised \$400,000 to pay for a director and assistant, a truck, gas, equipment, larvicide and seasonal help.

Washington non-human surveillance summary

Reported to Washington State Department of Health as of July 6, 2005

Washington State Department of Health West Nile Virus Surveillance Testing Summary								July 6, 2005	
County	Horses*		Birds**		Sentinel Flocks***		Mosquito Pools****		
	Tested	Positive	Tested	Positive	Tested	Positive	Tested	Positive	
Adams	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Asotin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Benton	0	0	7	0	200	0	0	0	0
Chelan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clallam	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clark	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Columbia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cowlitz	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Douglas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ferry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Franklin	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Garfield	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grant	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grays Harbor	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Island	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jefferson	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0
King	0	0	27	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kitsap	0	0	0	0	0	0	26	0	0
Kittitas	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Klickitat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lewis	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lincoln	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mason	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Okanogan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pacific	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pend Oreille	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pierce	0	0	10	0	0	0	8	0	0
San Juan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Skagit	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Skamania	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Snohomish	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0
Spokane	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stevens	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Thurston	0	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wahkiakum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Walla Walla	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whatcom	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Whitman	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Yakima	1	0	9	0	50	0	6	0	0
Totals	6	0	99	0	250	0	43	0	0

*A total of 12 horses have been tested for West Nile virus with negative results. Six were not included in the table because county/state information was not available. WADDL Report Dated: June 7, 2005.

**A total of 99 birds have been tested for West Nile virus; USGS Report Date: July 1, 2005 and WADDL Report Date: June 28, 2005

***Benton County MCD Report Dated: 6/17/2005

**** Mosquito pools tested by USACHPPM-West Report Date: July 1, 2005 (Week #17)

Community Comments

We would like to hear your comments on this newsletter and things you would like to see by sending them to Maryanne Guichard, 360.236.3391 or maryanne.guichard@doh.wa.gov.

WNV Web Resources

Washington State Department of Health www.doh.wa.gov/wnv
Center for Disease Control and Prevention www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/westnile/
Cornell University, Environmental Risk Analysis Program environmentalrisk.cornell.edu/WNV/
Washington State University Cooperative Extension wnv.wsu.edu/
Washington State Department of Agriculture
agr.wa.gov/FoodAnimal/AnimalHealth/Diseases/WestNileVirus/default.htm

Article Submission and Subscribing to Newsletter

We are interested in receiving articles for future publications of the WNV Newsletter. Please submit articles and subscription requests to Ben Hamilton, benjamin.hamilton@doh.wa.gov.

DOH Contact List for West Nile Virus

General Public Toll-Free Information Line 1.866.78VIRUS

Publications: Brochures/Flyers/Response Plan/Fact Sheets

Cyndi Free, 360-236-3384 or cyndi.free@doh.wa.gov

Surveillance: Mosquito

Jo Marie Brauner, 360.236.3064 or jomarie.brauner@doh.wa.gov

Animal Surveillance: Dead bird and horse surveillance, case reporting, and laboratory assistance, as well as general WNV response

Tom Gibbs, 360.236.3060 or tom.gibbs@doh.wa.gov

Aquatic Mosquito Control National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)

General Permit: Training, technical assistance

Ben Hamilton, 360.236.3364 or benjamin.hamilton@doh.wa.gov

WNV in Humans: Clinical information, case reporting, and laboratory testing

Call your local health jurisdiction or DOH Communicable Disease Epidemiology, (206) 418-5500 or (877) 539-4344.

Assistance with news releases and media response

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